IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 13-27 as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method, ~~of charging against prepaid credit in a communication network, the method~~ comprising:

requesting establishment of a call between a first terminal and a second terminal;

ascertaining whether any costs generated by accounting clients in ~~the~~ a network, and associated with the call, are to be charged against prepaid credit;

in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit, establishing an accounting session between an accounting server and the accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against the prepaid credit, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier;

establishing the call with the second terminal;

sending charging update data from the accounting client to the accounting server during the call; and

collating the charging update data in the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier.

2.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of accounting clients that generate costs in relation to the call, the method further comprising:

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establishing accounting sessions between each respective accounting client and the accounting server, each of the accounting sessions being allocated a common accounting session identifier associated with the call to be established;

sending charging update data from each of the accounting clients to the accounting server during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier; and

collating the charging update data from each of the accounting clients based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the accounting server is located in a home network of the first terminal.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein each accounting client takes the form of one of the following network entities:

Service General Packet Radio Service Support Node/ Gateway General Packet Radio Service Support Node;

Serving Call Service Control Function/Proxy Call Service Control Function; and

a network application server.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the accounting session identifier is allocated upon receipt in the network of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a Session Initiation Protocol message sent from the first terminal.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the charging update data is sent from the accounting clients to the accounting server via a Diameter protocol message.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the charging update data is sent from each accounting client to the accounting client in response to a Diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the accounting server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein ascertaining whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit includes looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network is an internet protocol network.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the network is a universal mobile telecommunications system network.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication~~ network, ~~configured to allow charging against prepaid credit in relation to a first terminal in a network including an accounting server and an accounting client capable of generating costs associated with a service in the network, the network being configured to~~comprising:

a requesting unit configured to accept a request from ~~the~~ a first terminal for establishment of a call between the first terminal and a second terminal;

an ascertaining unit configured to ascertain whether any costs generated by accounting clients in the network, and associated with the call, are to be charged against prepaid credit;

a first establishing unit, wherein in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit, the first establishing unit is configured to establish an

accounting session between ~~the~~ an accounting server and ~~the~~ an accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against the prepaid credit, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier; and

a second establishing unit is configured to establish the call with the second terminal;

wherein the accounting client is configured to send charging update data to the accounting server during the call; and

the accounting server is configured to collate the charging update data based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier.

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 13, including a plurality of accounting clients that generate costs in relation to the call, the network being further configured to:

establish accounting sessions between each respective accounting client and the accounting server, each of the accounting sessions being allocated a common accounting session identifier associated with the call to be established;

wherein each of the accounting clients is configured to send charging update data to the accounting server during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier; and

the accounting server is configured to collate the charging update data from each of the accounting clients based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

15. (Currently Amended)   A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 13, wherein the accounting server is located in a home network of the first terminal.

16. (Currently Amended)   A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 13, wherein each accounting client takes the form of one of the following network entities:

Service General Packet Radio Service Support Node/ Gateway General Packet Radio Service Support Node;

Serving Call Service Control Function/Proxy Call Service Control Function; and

a network application server.

17. (Currently Amended)   A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 13, configured such that the accounting session identifier is allocated upon receipt in the network of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal.

18. (Currently Amended)   A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 13, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a ~~S~~session ~~I~~initiation ~~P~~protocol message sent from the first terminal.

19. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 13, wherein the charging update data is sent from the accounting clients to the accounting server via a Diameter protocol message.

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 19, wherein the charging update data is sent from each accounting client to the accounting client in response to a Diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

21. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 20, wherein the accounting server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 13, configured to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit by looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

23. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 13, wherein the network is an internet protocol network.

24. (Currently Amended)   A ~~communication~~ network according to claim 23, wherein the network is a universal mobile telecommunications system network.

25. (Currently Amended)   A system, ~~to charge against prepaid credit in a communication network,~~ comprising:

requesting means for requesting establishment of a call between a first terminal and a second terminal;

ascertaining means for ascertaining whether any costs generated by accounting clients in ~~the~~ a network, and associated with the call, are to be charged against prepaid credit;

first establishing means for establishing, in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit, an accounting session between an accounting server and the accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against the prepaid credit, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier;

second establishing means for establishing the call with the second terminal;

sending means for sending charging update data from the accounting client to the accounting server during the call; and

collating means for collating the charging update data in the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier.

26.   (Currently Amended) An <u>apparatus,</u> ~~accounting server for charging against prepaid credit in a communication network, the accounting server being configured to~~<u>comprising</u>:

an establishing unit configured to establish an accounting session with an accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit during a call, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier;

<u>a receiver configured to</u> receive charging update data from the accounting client during the call; and

<u>a collating unit configured to</u> collate the charging update data based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier.

27.   (Currently Amended) An <u>apparatus,</u> ~~accounting client for charging against prepaid credit in a communication network, the accounting client being configured to~~<u>comprising</u>:

an establishing unit configured to establish an accounting session with an accounting server that will generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit during a call, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier,

<u>a transmitter configured to</u> send charging update data to the accounting server during a call for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session

identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier.